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EDITORIAL NOTICES.

THE AWARDS.—The destination of the original painting of the "Village Blacksmith" was decided by the fates to be Richmond, Virginia, and the recipient to be ex-Gov. Henry A. Wise. Good hands for it to fall into. It has been the singular fortune (or, rather, misfortune) for the best things of each previous year's awards to go into small, or out-of-the-way places, where the Association could not be particularly benefited by their exhibition. This simple fact goes to show how absurd and unfounded is the inference, occasionally made by those partially informed in the matter, to the effect that the Directory, in some way, could and does control the disposition of the premiums. The awards are uniformly made by a committee of disinterested gentlemen, whose names alone, where they are known, are a guarantee of the integrity of their work; and the Directory cannot, if it would, control, or even influence, the disposition of any of the premiums. All subscribers stand upon an equal footing—none has precedence over another, and by the award made by the committee the Directory abides to the letter—even though it should consign some of the choicest and most expensive works of art to the most outlandish places, or the most unappreciative quarters. It really was a source of satisfaction to the Directory that the "Village Blacksmith" should have fallen to the name of Gov. Wise; it would have been more than a pity if such a work of art had gone to Sodom cross-roads, or to some single subscriber living far away toward the setting sun. But, it was no power of the Directory which sent it to Richmond, and, therefore, they deserve no more blame or praise than should come from having done their duty in abiding faithfully by the award. We are happy to learn that the picture has met with a warm reception at the hands of the Richmond people, and trust it may long remain as one of the art-treasures of their city.

THANKS!—The success of the year just closed was owing, in no small degree, to the active personal exertion of a few of our agents, as will be seen by reference to the record of the lists of names reported. (See pages v and vi). We cannot, therefore, allow this occasion to pass without expressing most hearty thanks to our co-

laborers. We appreciate fully the value of their services; and hope to be able, some of these days, to requite them with some token of that appreciation in addition to their commissions. If our institution ever is the grand success which its friends predict is in store for it—when its subscribers shall number annually over fifty thousand—it must be so from the active interest taken in the matter by our agents, who thus become great instruments in spreading art-taste among the people.

To E. H. Hunt, of Philadelphia, Solomon King, of Baltimore, and Wm. H. Dennet, of Boston, we are under especial obligation for services rendered. By their instrumentality the Association has been favorably introduced to the citizens of their respective cities—a circumstance which must contribute, in no small degree, to the future well-being of the Institution.

THE GIFT BOOK BUSINESS.—The extraordinary success of the house of Evans & Co., New-York, proves that their system of business is not only popular, but one of the *fixed* facts of the book-trade. It is a curiosity to go into the store, 677 Broadway, and see the enormous number of packages going to every possible quarter of the country, by mail and express—all containing book or books and the accompanying "gifts." The system is one of the strictest fairness, as conducted by the firm named; and, in giving their advertisement place in our columns, we are giving currency to a legitimate and honorable business.

WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY.—The good effect of competition is witnessed in the best unabridged edition of Webster's Dictionary, which has so added to the old "unabridged" as to render it almost another work. The additions are in the valuable departments of Synonyms, of illustrations of things, of technical terms, &c., &c. It is to be doubted if any book could be more thoroughly prepared in its various departments. It has served to give *American* lexicography a pre-eminence in England—which is paying a vast compliment in view of the labors and works of the British lexicographers, from the time of Johnson down to the present day. Webster's Dictionary is truly a national work, of which our country may well feel proud; and that it is appreciated at home, as well as abroad, is evident from the fact that its sales have been and still continue to be enormous,

considering the size and cost of the book.

AN ELEGANT PLACE TO LOUNGE.—The "New-York Times," in descanting upon the places of resort in the city, where the visitor may take a rest and a feast together, says:

"There is a great deal of this kind of lounging done in New-York, and of all the many places in this city which intellectual loungers patronise, none is pleasanter for their purpose than the Dusseldorf Gallery, in Broadway. What delightful lounges one may take here! The pure æsthetic pleasures of a refined lounge can only be felt when the lounge is surrounded, as here, with the poetry of art, shedding its light and warmth around him. Here he may recline idly while the immortal thought of the painter or the sculptor gives him infinite gratification. It does more; for, if he is a sensible lounge, his taste may be educated or refined, his love of art more keenly awakened and strengthened, while thus enjoying idle moments. The lovely weather of the past days brings out a great crowd of loungers of both sexes and different grades. And, though one would think that Spring,

"Full of life and vivifying soul,"

and just recovering from her winter sleep, was not the season for loungers, this thought will be quickly put to flight by a stroll up Broadway and a visit to either one of the pleasant lounging places of this great city."

THE GOLD-MEDAL AND PRIZE FUND.—The offer made elsewhere, by the Directory of the Cosmopolitan Art Association, is exciting considerable attention in art-circles. It is characterized by the *Herald*, of New-York, as a "beneficent provision" for foreign study; and such, we feel, will be the verdict of the artists themselves. We direct especial attention to the offer. [See page vii of Supplement.]

FUTURE NUMBERS.—It is the purpose hereafter to issue the *Art Journal* in advance of its date. This (March) issue has been unexpectedly delayed, for reasons stated elsewhere. We shall not be behind-hand again.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.—Subscriptions received after the close of the sixth year's books were placed upon the seventh year's books. Subscribers will now be supplied with engravings and *Art Journal* upon usual terms. See preceding page.